MAMMAL MIX-UP: A woman telephoned the Platypus office the other day and said: "May I please speak to the editor of Wombat?"

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "He's a bigger criminal than me, the only reason he's in the Police force is to stay out of prison". Defendant heard talking to solicitor outside Canberra courtroom.

WATT'S IN A NAME: A Sydney radio operator could not determine who was giving a Canberra call-sign from an Eastern Division vehicle. After three transmissions to the vehicle, seeking the occupants name, and only receiving 'What?' in reply each time, the despatcher demanded the rank and name of the occupant. Reply: "Assistant Commissioner WATT!" Ooops!!

SMILE PLEASE: Possibly the most photographed Police in Australia are the members on duty at the main entrance to Parliament House. One is supposed to pose for the tourists with a grim, determined look, but it is difficult to keep a straight face when photographers take aim and step back to focus, only to disappear down the steps.

FISHY STORY: That well known computer whiz, Chief Superintendent Wal Williams, is said to be working so hard these days on AFP's new computer system that he not only takes home oodles of work, but even dines on the job. The menu? Why, microfische and silicon chips of course!

FUZZ APPROVAL: Now that beards are in, subject to certain criteria, many members will no doubt be striving to promote a good cover during their rec. leave periods. As they say: if you get picked up by the fuzz . . . it hurts!

COOL IT: AFP vehicles in the more humid regions may soon be fitted with air-conditioning. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

SHADES OF EUREKA: AFP may also soon get its own flag. Approval has been granted by the Prime Minister's Department to proceed with the manufacture of the flag. But just where shall we hoist it . . . on our radio aerials?

THE WRITTEN WORD: To help PLATYPUS thrive as your journal we appeal to members to contribute in various ways. Contributions need not be literary masterpieces, in fact quite often an idea or suggestion is just as helpful. Articles may be short or long, serious or humorous. Perhaps a letter to the editor on a relevant topic. Photographs should be either clear good quality black and white prints, preferably glossy, or black and white or colour negatives. Colour transparencies are able to be used only if they are of high quality. Contributions should be addressed to The Editor, Platypus, P.O. Box 401, Canberra City. Contributions forwarded by internal mail should be addressed to The Editor, Platypus, AFP Headquarters, Third Floor, National Mutual Building, Canberra City.

BE BOATWISE!

by Sergeant Alan Holland (OIC) ACT Water Police

Boating in all forms has become a popular past-time in recent years with many real 'land-lubbers' trying their hand at the tiller of various water craft. The thrill of slicing through the water appears relatively easy, but many an intricate manoeuvre has to take place if one wants to return to their launching site. Manoeuvring sailcraft can present many problems to the unskilled sailor. Even experienced sailors come unstuck due to wind changes. When a craft capsizes, regardless of how strong the crew are as swimmers, the dangers of drowning are manifold. Often the crew are thrown into the water injured, or without adequate inflatable life preservers. Often help is miles away or slow in coming. If help is in the form of another boat rescue may be too late to save your life.

A recent survey conducted amongst sail-craft owners plying the lakes of Canberra revealed that only one in twenty understood the wind warning devices located at intervals on both lakes. Only one in ten thought to listen to the daily weather forecast of wind strengths predicted for the lakes. On the day of the survey 32 craft in distress were assisted by water police. All had capsized. The majority of crews were in an exhausted state when rescued, possibly due to low water temperatures and buffetting by strong winds. Power-boats present additional problems. Regulations governing the use, control and speed of power-boats varies from state to